



**Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission**  
343 HIGHLAND ROAD, TIVERTON, RHODE ISLAND 401-625-6700

**NEW LAND ACQUISITIONS EXPAND WEETAMOO WOODS**

On behalf of the Town of Tiverton, it is with pleasure that the Tiverton Open Space Commission announces the preservation of 98 acres of coastal forest and field.

Located to the east of Tiverton Four Corners, the new land lies within the largest contiguous forested area in Rhode Island's East Bay region. The area abuts Weetamoo Woods and will be managed as part of the larger natural area comprising Pardon Gray Preserve, owned by the Tiverton Land Trust, and the town-owned Weetamoo Woods. Management goals include preserving the forest ecosystem, protecting archaeological sites, and providing trails for hiking, bird watching and nature observation.

A coordinated effort between the Town Open Space Commission, the Tiverton Land Trust, and The Rhode Island Nature Conservancy made the acquisition possible. Critical support through matching grants from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management also proved instrumental to the project's success.

The Open Space Commission offers a special thank you to the landowners who worked with us to fulfill a wish to see these parcels protected. This acquisition further ensures the survival of Tiverton's rare coastal oak-holly forest plant community. It also contributes to a regional effort to secure critical habitat along the coastal migration route for many northeastern songbirds.

In conjunction with the land purchases, the Open Space Commission has received a grant in the amount of \$10,468 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the establishment of grassland habitat on 15 acres of the property that was formerly plow land. The Open Space Commission will work closely with the Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District on the three-year project including the removal of exotic invasive plants, plowing and

planting grasses. The new grassland will increase biodiversity, as well as provide a research opportunity for studying how land can be used for both wildlife habitat and growing suitable agricultural forage. In-kind services from the Open Space Commission will be used to match the grant, thus requiring no additional town funds. The project will begin June 2006.

The Town Charter charges the Tiverton Open Space Commission with acquiring and maintaining natural and agricultural areas that are central to the Town's character and quality of life. These areas provide quiet places for citizens to enjoy the natural world, and they preserve biodiversity and the quality of our critical watersheds. Saving open space also results in lower population density, thereby reducing the need for public expenditures for schools and services.

Commission members and volunteers administer and maintain Tiverton's preserved open space through activities such as the appointed Trail Stewards who assist in monitoring and maintaining the trails of Weetamoo Woods and Fort Barton Woods. To volunteer please contact the Open Space Commission at Town Hall.

A community walk will be held in the early Fall for citizens of Tiverton to view the property and see progress of the grassland habitat. The date will be posted on the Tiverton website [www.tiverton.ri.gov](http://www.tiverton.ri.gov) and announced in the Newport Daily News and Sakonnet Times.

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